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27 November 1956

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Evaluation of Transportation and Communications Section of State  
Despatch No. 209, Hong Kong.

1. State Despatches from Hong Kong represent one of the best sources of information on the Far East available to S/TR. The factual information contained in them is either taken from the same basic source or is generally substantiated by other publications such as FRIS daily reports and FID summaries. The subjective comments point up the important facts and offer valid interpretations which make the job of S/TR analysts less difficult.

2. The Transportation and Communications Section of State Despatch No. 209 seems to be particularly good in these respects. It summarizes material from the June meeting of the Chinese Communist National People's Congress which provided considerable statistical data on the transportation sector of the economy. The comments are well-taken and, although not always borne out by subsequent events, do represent an acute awareness of the transportation situation in Communist China. S/TR recommends strongly that reports of this type be disseminated as quickly as possible after they are received by CIA.

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